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Footballer now coaching new Christians

NANCY, France (BP) — It's a dark little bar off the main square in downtown Nancy, France. Inside, a few locals lean on tiny tables, mesmerized by music videos blaring from a television on the wall.

Bruno, the big bartender, leans in to listen, stopping now and then to wipe the bar or fill an order.

To one side a little group talks sports in the earnest, low-pitched way men talk sports around the world.

Smack in the middle of the group — surprise! — is Foreign Mission Board missionary Rod Boatwright.

They listen to him because the sport they're enthusing about is American football.

Boatwright, after all, is an American — and a football coach.

Say "football" in Europe and people think soccer. You have to specify "American football" to indicate you are talking about the pointy-ended ball and the game Yanks play across the water.

The game has grown in popularity in recent years. American NFL teams have played exhibition games in Europe, and many young people wear clothes with "Cowboys" or "Packers" logos even if they don't know the sport well.

Of course, Southern Baptists didn't send Boatwright and his wife, Donna, to Nancy in 1993 to play football, but to share the gospel and start churches.

Football, however, has opened doors for them to witness.

Coaching the local team has given Boatwright respectability, recognition, and acceptance years quicker than a missions worker normally would get it.

The Boatwrights also have gotten to know neighbors and spend many hours each week visiting in homes for contacts or Bible studies.



STUDYING THE PLAY BOOK—Home Bible studies give Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary Rod Boatwright (right) another opportunity to teach new believers the basics of the Christian life. In 16 months, the church Boatwright and his wife, Donna, started in Nancy, France, has baptized 10 new believers — a good crop from the hard soil of Europe. Another kind of coaching, American football, gave Boatwright witnessing opportunities that helped speed the development of the church. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

Thirty-one people attended their first service in September 1995, and attendance has averaged 20 to 30 since then.

Such slow growth is typical for church planting in France, where it usually requires 15 or more years to develop a self-supporting church.

Almost without exception, everyone is either a new Christian or a seeker. Rod is teaching the basics of the Christian faith.

"We are seeing the people grow, but they really have no religious background and it's taking time for them to mature. During the first 16 months of beginning the church, we had 10 baptisms. Three were football players," Donna said.

Fewer than 6% of France's 55 million people identify themselves as "practicing Christians."

Fortune-telling, however, is popular

in France. The country has 40,000 registered professional astrologers. Muslims outnumber active Catholics and evangelical Christians combined. A new mosque opens every two weeks in France and Germany.

Boatwright spends much of his time discussing the difference between Roman Catholic views and Baptist ones.

One man asked him, for example, about saints. "I said, 'It's nice to be one!'" Boatwright recalled with a laugh.

"He looked at me funny. Then I explained the difference.

"Catholics see saints as miracle workers, but we Protestants believe every believer is a saint.

"He said, 'Wow, that's interesting.'"

Looking back

10 years ago

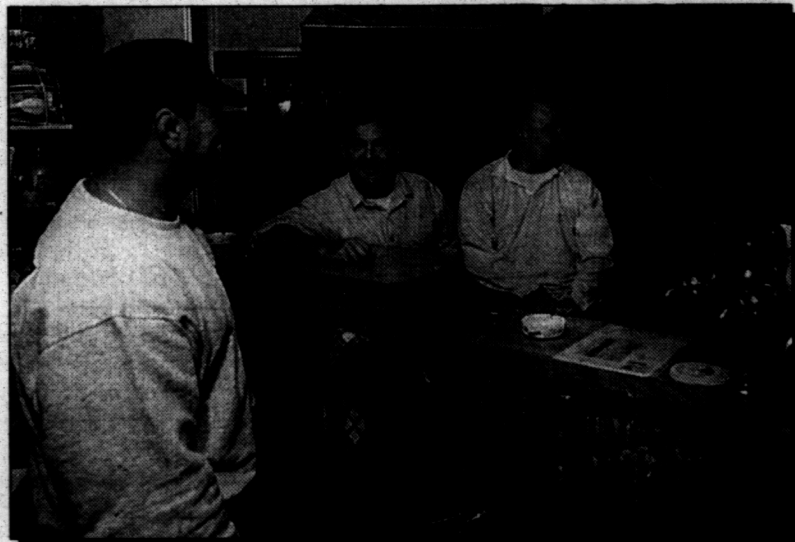
Larry Baker may have only a six-month tenure as head of the Christian Life Commission, according to commissioners on the short end of a 16-13 vote to hire him. Criticism centered around the process by which Baker was nominated and his ethical views, particularly on abortion.

20 years ago

Work is progressing on the \$3.3 million Gulfshore Assembly at Henderson Point near Pass Christian. The facility includes a protected harbor, a docking area, and sand beaches as well as modern accommodations for meetings, seminars, and groups. Completion date is set for the Fall of 1977.

50 years ago

Several readers have asked for the correct pronunciation of the word Garaywa, the name of the new WMU camp near Clinton. The word was taken from "Girl's Auxiliary," "Royal Ambassador and Young Women's Auxiliary. The correct pronunciation is "GARE - ray - way."



WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS HIS NAME—His status as coach of the local American football team in Nancy, France, gives Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary Rod Boatwright (second from left) access to settings where the gospel is rarely shared — like this bar. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

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WMU sets Ridgcrest trip

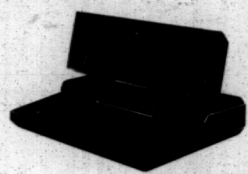
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Norris: 'Walker, Texas Churchgoer'

DALLAS (BP) — Chuck Norris. Star of the CBS television's "Walker, Texas Ranger" series, now in its fourth season. Actor in 20 feature films. Six-time world karate champion. Regular at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas. Yes, Prestonwood. Norris, who now lives in Dallas and films his TV series there, noted his church of choice in an American Airlines "American Way" magazine feature. What's more, Prestonwood's pastor, Jack Graham, is "an excellent speaker and he really keeps you engrossed in his sermons," Norris said. "That's the thing. A pastor that can keep you really riveted to what he's talking about, that's what's important."

Let the real truth set you free

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful. Pro. 12:22 (NIV)

At long last, the terrible truth about partial birth abortions has come out.

The lying, deceitful campaign to minimize this infanticide has been exposed from within, and the resulting fallout reveals much about the status of truthfulness (and lack thereof) in our politics and culture.

Ron Fitzsimmons, executive director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers in Washington, D.C., appeared on ABC television's "Nightline" a few weeks ago to admit that he "lied through my teeth" last year at the height of the partial birth abortion debate that ultimately resulted in President Clinton's veto of a congressional ban on the ghastly procedure.

Partial birth abortion, you will recall, occurs when an abortionist forcibly pulls a baby — up to full term — from the mother's womb and then kills the child by vacuuming out its brain just before completing what would otherwise be a live birth.

Fitzsimmons said he and other pro-abortion leaders intentionally misled the American public about the frequency of such abortions, which they knew to be much higher than the numbers they were quoting.

When asked about the allegation that partial birth abortions were being used on healthy babies with minor defects, Kate Michelman of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights League, said, "It's not only a myth, it's a lie."

She knew it was true.

Planned Parenthood released a statement that said the procedure "is extremely rare and done only in cases when the woman's life is in danger or in cases of extreme fetal abnormality."

They knew that wasn't true.

Last year, the Lord touched my heart through a request written in "The Baptist Record."

Bill Hardy, Partnership Mission Office, wrote about the great need in Honduras. He asked Mississippi Baptist churches to consider linking church-to-church with a Honduran congregation to perform a church-planting partnership.

As a pastor, I began to pray about our church and God began to put a vision on my heart.

In October 1996, during the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Hardy introduced me to Pastor Samuel Rodriguez of the Salem Baptist Church in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and president of the Honduras Baptist Convention.

I told Pastor Rodriguez that God had laid the vision on my heart to work with a church in Honduras, helping to start a new church.

When I asked him if he knew of a congregation with which my church might form a partnership, he excitedly exclaimed, "Me! Mine!" Rodriguez has a great vision from God for his church to plant new congregations across Honduras.

North Carrollton Church enthusiastically began to get busy. We recruited a prayer team to

The leading practitioner of partial birth abortion, the late Los Angeles physician James McMahon, had already admitted publicly and to the U.S. Congress that he performed numerous partial birth abortions during all 40 weeks of pregnancy for such elective reasons as cleft lip, maternal depression, and the youthfulness of the mother.

In another effort to control the ongoing national debate, Michelman and others claimed that the otherwise-viable baby was killed by anesthesia administered to the mother before the abortion was started.

The American Society of Anesthesiologists, deeply concerned that such a statement could frighten pregnant women away from critical healthcare, promptly released documentation that proved maternal anesthesia has no effect on the health of the developing baby.

Syndicated columnist Richard Cohen, an abortion rights supporter, recently retracted a column in which he defended partial birth abortion. He admitted that he was wrong to accept at face value the misinformation supplied by abortion rights groups.

John Leo, columnist for "U.S. News and World Report," said in the magazine's March 10 issue, "It's a dishonest campaign aimed at keeping the truth from the American people."

What lessons can Christians learn from this unfolding nightmare of untruthfulness and deceit?

First, the enemies of truth are willing to cloak themselves in false righteousness and deliberately-misleading language in order to avoid being defeated.

Secondly, news media are not to be trusted for balanced reporting on such important national debates.

Despite all the evidence to the contrary, the media continue to swallow the propa-



Ignoring the truth

ganda of the pro-abortion lobby, framing partial birth abortion as "rare" and a "last resort to save the life and health of the mother." They are apparently blinded to the truth on this and — I dare say — many other important issues of our day.

Which leads to the most important lesson: there is an unimpeachable source on which we can base our Christian stand concerning any important issue of our day.

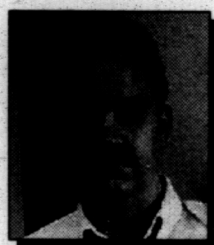
The Bible is filled with references to truth and how to discern truth among the self-serving din that passes today for political and cultural discussion.

Don't be deceived by the synthetic, relativistic truth that surrounds us.

Seek the Lord's leadership as you search your Bible for timeless, authentic truth. He will show you where to find it.

After all, there's only one truth that will really set you free (John 8:31-32).

GUEST OPINION:



Think global!

*By Kevin J. Smith, pastor,
North Carrollton Church, Carrollton*

spiritually undergird the work.

With fund-raisers and love offerings, our small church raised more than \$10,000 and sent a team of six men to Las Delicias, Honduras.

It was a wonderful experience living in those meager conditions, serving these wonderful Christian brothers and sisters.

A real "hallelujah" of the trip was the fact that some of our men got to lead people to the Lord. When they returned to the church after walking in the sweltering heat and dust, the joy of the Lord filled their hearts over a soul saved!

Each evening, it was my privilege to preach to the church. On Wednesday, two men who helped in our construction work, men who we assumed were Christians, came forward to be saved.

On Thursday night, I shared with the church concerning the importance of helping their pastor in the work of evangelism. Fifteen members of the 24 member congregation came forward to commit themselves to help win their world.

Saturday was the best day of the trip. Las Delicias Baptist Mission became a fully constituted church in the Honduras Baptist Convention.

I was asked to sign the Constitution Papers, along with a host of other Honduras Baptist pastors. It was official — a new church was born through the partnership of Salem Church and North Carrollton Church. As I sat in that incredible scene, I sensed God's good pleasure in our obedience to his vision to win the world to Jesus!

I want to thank the men on our team, all of our wives, and the North Carrollton Church for following in the vision and working so hard to see it become a reality.

I want to thank Pastor Rodriguez and Salem Church for partnering with us in the effort, and Bill Hardy for helping us plan this trip.

Most of all, I want to thank the Lord for letting us in on his work and using our church for his glory!

I want to challenge the pastors and the people of our Mississippi Baptist churches. If you are frustrated because you are not seeing the growth that you desire, and if you are filled with a want to win the world to Jesus, quit thinking only about your local area.

Jesus said, "You shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Yes, do all you can in your immediate geographic location, and then pray and see if God will let you go to the rest of the world!

For more information on Mississippi partnership missions, contact Hardy at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

NOBTS courses to be taught at four state locations

Registration is open for the final course of an eight-course series of classes sponsored by New Orleans Seminary

(NOBTS) designed to provide basic training for Mississippi bivocational music and education directors.

The course will be taught in the facilities of four Mississippi churches.

In addition, "Discipling Church Members," an NOBTS course for bivocational ministers of education, is slated to begin on March 24 in two of the same Mississippi church facilities.

"Survey of Church Music Resources," an in-depth study of church music literature available from the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, will meet once weekly for eight weeks at four locations across the state:

◆ Broadmoor Church, Jackson: 7-9 p.m., beginning March 24. Jimmy McCaleb, teacher.

◆ First Church, Columbus: 7-9 p.m., beginning March 25. Ed Nix, teacher.

◆ First Church, Purvis: 6:30-8:30 p.m., beginning March 24. James Hayes, teacher.

◆ Liberty Church, Liberty: 7-9 p.m., beginning March 24. Buddy McElroy, teacher. (The course is "Worship Planning.")

The "Discipling Church Members" course will meet at the

following times and locations:

◆ First Church, Columbus: 7-9 p.m., beginning March 24. Sammy Crawford, teacher.

◆ First Church, Purvis: 7-9 p.m., beginning March 24. Ken Rhodes, teacher.

Approximately 11 people are currently signed up for the music course, while approximately eight people have registered for the education course.

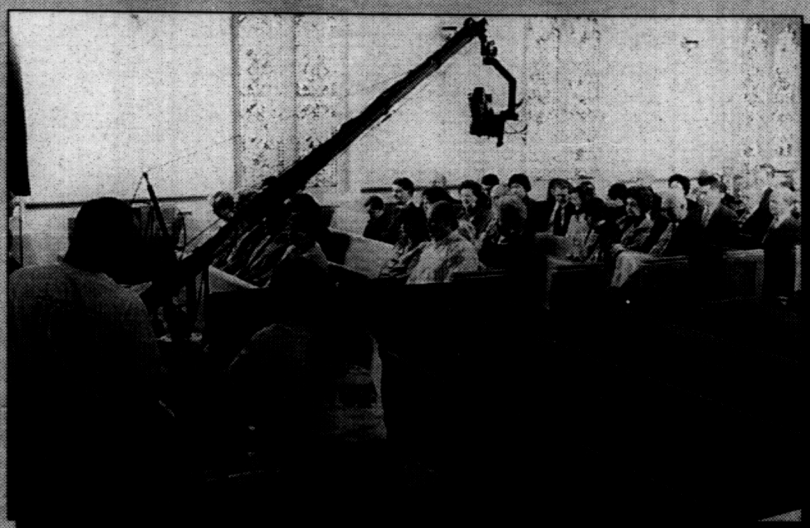
NOBTS classes could be offered at other locations around Mississippi when a minimum of ten students plan to enroll.

For more information on "Survey of Church Music Resources" and other NOBTS activities in the state, contact coordinator Chester Vaughn at 268 Northpointe Parkway, Jackson, MS 39211. Telephone: (601) 956-6285.



THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

'Quiet on the set!'



Video technicians working a "Jimmy Jib" telescoping camera boom prepare for another take in the chapel of First Church, Jackson — one of the sets for the \$80,000 series of four broadcast-quality television and radio commercials being produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The commercials will begin airing in April. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Carey acquires 300 acres in Lamar County

William Carey College (WCC) in Hattiesburg will trade three acres of beachfront land in Long Beach for 300 acres of land adjacent to the Pecan Shadows property near Lumberton which was recently donated to the Baptist-affiliated college, according to WCC Chancellor Jim Edwards.

"God still moves in mysterious ways! We have tried for several years to sell the Long Beach lot, and even though it has appreciated in value, the market in the Coast area has fluctuated and we have not

received an acceptable purchase offer.

"If we had sold the Long Beach lot earlier, the possibility would not have existed to use it in exchange for the 300 acres near Lumberton," Edwards said.

The Long Beach land was donated in 1991 by Dumas and Lorena Smith of Hattiesburg. The appraised value was not available.

The 300 acres of pecan orchards and timber near Lumberton was owned by Bill and Angela Hudson, who donated their adjacent 19-acre, \$1.75 million Pecan

Shadows family estate to the college on Dec. 5 of last year.

The appraised value was not available. Edwards laid out three reasons for recommending the land swap to the school's trustees:

◆ "Owning the surrounding 300 acres helps... protect the value... of Pecan Shadows."

◆ "This strategy increases options for the future of The Genesis Center for Work and Service at Pecan Shadows."

◆ "We want to study... some new ideas... for service and education in the 21st century..."

Edwards also said he wanted to put to rest a number of rumors about the Pecan Shadows property.

"We are not planning to move WCC from our Hattiesburg, Gulfport, and New Orleans campuses to Lumberton. We are not planning a fourth branch or regional campus in Lumberton."

"We are not planning for the chancellor to move into a 14,000-square-foot mansion (at Pecan Shadows)," he pointed out.

However, the school is planning more cultural events, spiritual retreats, faculty seminars, and student work programs for the Pecan Shadows property, Edwards stressed.

WCC, affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is headquartered on the Hattiesburg main campus.

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Gov. Fordice signs legislative bill banning partial birth abortions

Mississippi Gov. Kirk Fordice signed legislation March 17 to outlaw partial birth abortions in the state.

The partial birth abortion procedure — where a baby up to full term is partially delivered before being destroyed — generated a bitter national debate both before and after President Clinton vetoed a congressionally-approved mandate in 1996 that would have made the procedure illegal across the country (see "Editor's Notebook" on opposite page).

Messengers to the annual meetings of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention have repeatedly voiced their opposition to the procedure and called for a legal ban.

"How many unborn cries have been lifted to heaven every day this atrocity has been allowed? Today we heed those cries. Today we step between the unborn child and this totally unjustifiable act of violence," Fordice said.

The law was titled "Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act" and designated House Bill 1494 during the legislative process. It will go into effect on July 1.

The law prohibits physicians from performing the procedure in the state, providing a felony charge for violation with penalties of up to two years in prison and a \$25,000 fine. The law also includes:

◆ exceptions for rape or to save the life of the mother.

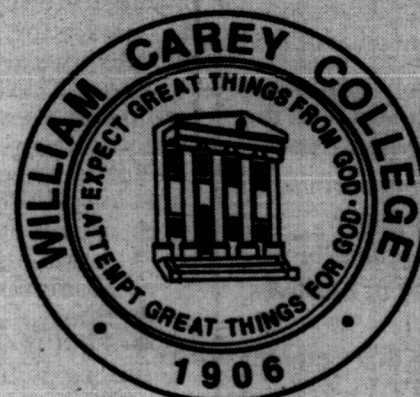
◆ an exception if no other medical procedure would suffice.

◆ the awarding of civil damages from the abortionist to the husband of the mother or her parents if she is a minor, unless the pregnancy resulted from the plaintiff's criminal conduct or the plaintiff consented to the procedure.

◆ removal of medical or nursing license upon felony conviction.

◆ felony prosecution of unlicensed practitioners, including a charge of murder if the mother dies as a result of the actions of an unlicensed practitioner.

For more information on partial birth abortion and other legislative issues, contact the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Hattiesburg

LUMBERTON

MBIB slates annual workshop April 18-19

Mississippi Baptists involved in radio, television, and cable broadcasting — and those interested in getting started — will gather April 18-19 at Calvary

of Ft. Worth, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Radio & Television Commission (RTVC). Johnson will provide an update on RTVC, American Christian Television System (ACTS), FamilyNet, and the mergers forming the new North American Mission Board.

Workshops include:

◆ "Producing a Worship Service — Basic and Advanced," led by Gary Underwood of Bigelow, Ark., director of media operations for the Arkansas governor's office.

The "Advanced" workshop later in the day will move beyond basics to cover more advanced areas, and is designed for people who have experience in producing a worship service for broadcast.

◆ "Producing Pageants on a Budget," led by Ken Anderson, owner of Anderson Productions in Jackson; and Richard Lister, owner of Master Sounds in Madison.

◆ "Shooting and Editing with the Single Camera," led by Steve Guidry, chief executive officer of Video Works, a Jackson television production firm; and Ken Sims, video and audio consultant for Mission Service Supply in Jackson.

◆ "Basic Audio in the Church," led by David Edmonds, vice president and co-owner of Sound and Communications in Jackson. Edmonds will continue in the afternoon "Basic Audio in the Church—Hands-On."

◆ "Media Promotion in Your Church and Community," led by Chip Turner of Alexandria, La., who received the ACTS 10th Anniversary Award for Outstanding Achievement.

◆ "Supporting Church Ministries with Video," also led by Turner.

Registration cost of \$25 per person. That includes both days of the conference, three meals, and conference materials.

Churches with four or more participants for both days pay \$20 per person registration.

A registration cost of \$15 per

person is available for those attending Friday only or Saturday only.

Advance registration is required by April 9.

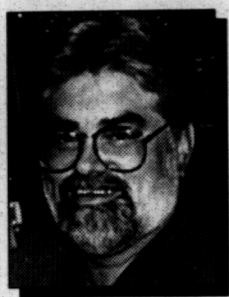
Checks should be made payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). To register or to obtain more information, contact Farrell Blankenship, MBCB director of broadcast services, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

The MBIB planning committee includes

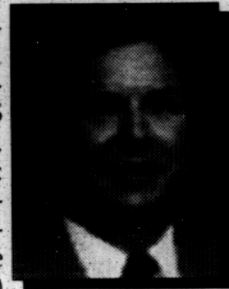
Guidry, Sims, Lister, Wayne Pierce of Hattiesburg; George Van Horn of Jackson; Judy Chen of Jackson; Merle Guyton of Tupelo; and Bruce Cole of Bruce.



Turner



Sims



Edmonds

Easter Celebration 7 p.m., March 30

Mississippi Coast
Convention Center
U.S. 90 — Biloxi

Guest Singer: Babbie Mason
Admission: Free

Sponsored by:
Mississippi Gulf Coast Churches

Colo. partnership needs

◆ Project 120: Continental Divide Association, Segauche, needs 30 hickory sticks by early summer for a special Christmas project. Each stick should be six feet by one inch in diameter. Contact Fayma Humphreys, P.O. Box 617, Segauche, CO 81149. Telephone: (719) 655-2616.

◆ Project 121: North La Junta Chapel, La Junta, needs a keyboard and sound system for worship services. Some funds available. Contact Brad Collins, 1321 Cimarron, La Junta, CO 81050. Telephone: (719) 384-8441.

◆ Project 122: Trinity Church, Gunnison, requests help installing perimeter baseboard hot water heating in church building. Plumbers and electricians are needed. Contact Pastor Jerry Hodges at 523 N. Pine Street, Gunnison, CO 81230. Telephone: (970) 641-1813.

For information on Mississippi Baptist Partnership projects, contact Bill Hardy, director of the Partnership Missions Office, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Southern Seminary Choir sets Miss. performances

The Seminary Choir of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., will present a series of Mississippi concerts in early April as part of the group's 1997 national tour.

The choir consists of 47 auditioned singers, all of whom are graduate students. Most choir members are preparing for careers in church music or higher education. Conductor is John H. Dickson, coordinator of conducting studies at Southern Seminary.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1
2:30 p.m.
Univ. of Miss. Dept. of Music
Oxford

7 p.m.
First Baptist Church
Oxford

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2
3 p.m.
Miss. College Dept. of Music
Clinton

7 p.m.
Broadmoor Baptist Church
Jackson

THURSDAY, APRIL 3
11:30 a.m.
Millsaps College
Dept. of Music
Jackson

FRIDAY, APRIL 4
11 a.m.
Univ. of Southern Miss.
School of Music
Hattiesburg

7 p.m.
William Carey College
Dept. of Music
Hattiesburg



Eleventh Mississippi Baptists In Broadcasting

April 18-19, 1997

Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson

You can find the missing PEACE

The Prince of Peace extends a wonderful invitation to you.

1. His love gives us peace.

This is his promise:

"Perfect love casts out fear." (1 John 4:18) When we ask Christ into our lives, his love chases away fear.

2. His promise of eternal life gives us peace.

The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life." (Romans 6:23) God provides eternal life through the death and resurrection of his Son.

3. His promise to walk with us through life gives us peace.

Jesus said, "In me you may have peace. In this world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Jesus extends his promise of peace to us, but we must respond by accepting him as the missing piece in our lives.

You can make that commitment today by, (1) admitting you need God, (2) confessing your sins to him, and (3) by faith, receiving Christ as Lord.

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

Church, Jackson, for the eleventh annual Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting (MBIB) Workshop.

An awards banquet will kick off the workshop at 7 p.m. on April 18. Ted Baehr of Atlanta, chairman of the Christian Film and Television Commission, a non-profit organization committed to educating the entertainment industry and the general public about the media's impact, will be the keynote speaker.

Baehr serves as the publisher of "Movieguide," a family guide to entertainment based on biblical values. He is an award-winning producer, writer, director, radio personality, and scholar. His goal is to help redeem the values of the media while educating audiences on how to use discernment in selecting entertainment.

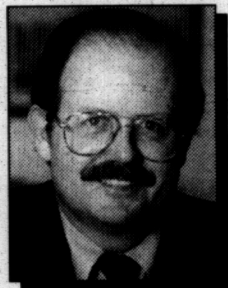
Awards in radio and television categories to be presented at the banquet include best programs for:

- ◆ Missions/evangelism.
- ◆ Church musical.
- ◆ Community service.
- ◆ Spot.
- ◆ First-time entry.

Judges will also decide an overall award for best creative use of radio or television. A special audio/video presentation of the programs submitted by the award winners will be shown by the MBIB judging committee.

April 19 will feature workshops beginning at 9:30 a.m., and equipment displays from 8 a.m.-3:15 p.m. A continental breakfast will be served by Calvary Church at 8 a.m.

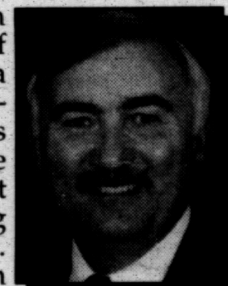
A special feature of Saturday's program will be a 9 a.m. briefing with Jack Johnson



Baehr



Johnson



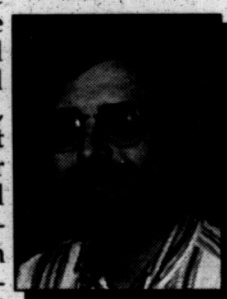
Underwood



Anderson



Lister



Guidry

Mississippians tackle Bosnia mission work

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — When barriers to the gospel fall in countries closed to mission-

In the aftermath of civil war or political oppression, people search for a new way of life —



MAKESHIFT TOYS — Muslim children make their own play toys in a refugee camp near Zivinice, Bosnia. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

ary work, mission leaders must move quickly to avoid losing the opportunity of the moment.

making them unusually receptive to missionaries carrying the good news of God's love.

One such situation exists in Bosnia, where Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) missionaries Florence and Wayne Frederick of Mississippi reported seven women accepted Christ in Zivinice, and Bob and Jerry Worley reported one profession of faith in Sarajevo.

The Fredericks and Worleys are among six veteran missionary couples who accepted temporary six-month assignments in Bosnia after a peace accord ended four years of civil war.

The couples have found many people receptive, but their six-month terms are ending.

FMB leaders are asking God to provide long-term workers to build on the foundations these missionaries have laid.

Wayne Frederick is a native of Shannon, a graduate of Itawamba Junior College, Mississippi College, and New

Orleans Seminary, New Orleans.

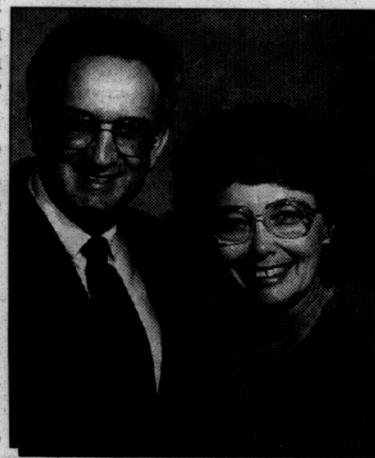
He pastored several churches in the state both before and after being appointed a missionary to Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe, in the French West Indies in 1969.

Florence Bush Frederick was born in New Orleans but was raised in Edwards, Miss.

The Fredericks have four grown daughters.

The Fredericks returned to the states where Wayne pastored Jericho Church, Baldwyn, in 1986. They returned to the mission field in 1991.

For information about strategic opportunities in missionary service, call the FMB toll-free at (800) 999-3113, ext. 1635.



Fredericks

Mississippi missionary flees Albania violence

TIRANA, Albania (BP) — All Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) workers remaining in Albania left the country March 12 as violence in the southern region continued to intensify.

Nine workers evacuated to Greece and Bosnia earlier in March, but then rebel mobs seized more territory. Insurgents looted assault rifles, heavy machine guns, and fighter planes from government bases, forcing army and police units to flee north.

The continued violence prompted mission administrators to pull the remaining nine workers from the country as well.

Bill and Debbie McIntyre, Mark Hinton, and Suzanne Lacy relocated to Thessaloniki, Greece, while James Bradley moved to Skopje, Macedonia.

They all will continue their study of the Albanian language and work with the large groups of ethnic Albanians in those countries.

Kevin Walker of Saucier, Miss., Gale and Leslie Hartley,

and Lawrence Duhon, relocated to Sarajevo, Bosnia, where they will help with church-planting efforts. Eight of the nine workers who evacuated earlier also relocated to Bosnia.

In the Albanian capital of Tirana, President Sali Berisha agreed to June elections and a coalition government in an attempt to quell the insurrection, sparked by public outrage over failed investment schemes that depleted nearly every Albanian family's savings.

Rebels, however, have insist-

ed on Berisha's resignation. About one-fifth of the country's warplanes are in rebel hands after the capture of a key air base.

The violence threatens growth on one of the most responsive mission fields in Eastern Europe. Dozens of

CBF missionary wounded in Albania

TIRANA, Albania (ABP) — A Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) missionary was shot March 13 while trying to exit strife-torn Albania.

Deborah Ayres, a CBF missionary since 1993, was hit in the back of the head in the Albanian port city of Durres on the Adriatic Sea, as her family and other Christian workers tried to leave the country.

Sketchy reports indicate the bullet did not penetrate the skull, and the wound is not believed to be life-threatening although she was hospitalized in Durres.

Eleven CBF missionaries and their families were in the process of leaving Albania as violence continued to escalate in the country's southern regions. One CBF couple working in Albania is in America due to a death in the family.

Faced with a deteriorating situation, U.S. military helicopters began evacuating Americans from Albania March 13.

Four Chinook helicopters were flown to Tirana, the capital city, from the U.S. naval fleet in the Ionian Sea to evacuate the first 50 Americans, Associated Press reported.

At least 170 more people were due to follow.

A military official said the evacuation will include all non-essential U.S. government personnel, their dependents, and as many of the other American civilians as possible. About 2,000 American civilians live in Albania.

Ayres, 45, has worked as a Fellowship missionary to Albanian peoples with her husband, Bert, since 1993. She is the mother of five children and a native of Lakeland, Fla.

CBF spokesman Gary Baldrige, at CBF headquarters in Atlanta, said he had talked to Mennonite officials in Italy who received news of the shooting from Mennonite missionaries who were also attempting to leave from the Durres port.

Earlier on March 13, Baldrige said four CBF couples leaving Albania were thought to be aboard a ferry heading for Italy.

When the boat arrived, however, there were reportedly no Americans aboard, he said later.

Another CBF missionary couple and a single missionary were attempting to leave the country by car, he said.

Baldrige predicted all CBF missionaries would be out of the country within 24 hours.

Six missionary couples of the Baptist Missionary Society in Great Britain were reported to be safe March 5, but no later word was available March 13.

Earlier, CBF missionaries were given guidelines on whether to leave as armed rebels continued to seize territory in southern Albania.

The revolt began more than two months ago, stemming from public rage over high-risk investment schemes that caused 3 million people to lose their savings.

Many of the people who lost money in the pyramid schemes suspect the Albanian government of complicity in the financial debacle.

The insurrection, which had for the most part been confined to the southern part of the country, has reached Tirana, Associated Press reported.



evangelical churches have sprouted across Albania in recent years as people have responded rapidly to the gospel.

More than 830 villages in Albania's rugged countryside have been the focus of a program called Albania Evangelical Rural Outreach (AERO) by FMB missionaries in cooperation with Campus Crusade for Christ, Helimission and Albanian believers.

Since 1994, hundreds of missionary workers have shown Campus Crusade's "Jesus" film to more than 67,000 Albanians. That witnessing effort has resulted in hundreds of professions.

T. R. Polk, pastor, dies

Travis R. Polk, 57, pastor of Mt. Olivet Church, Scott County, for 13 years, died Feb. 24 at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, following an extended illness. Services were held Feb. 26 at Clifton Church, Scott County, with burial in the Clifton Church Cemetery.

A native of Lawrence County, Polk attended Clarke College and had been pastoring for 25 years. He previously served as pastor of East Side Church, Pelahatchie, and Union Ridge Church, Leake County.

Survivors include his wife Charlotte Polk of Forest; daughter Judy Northway of Florence; four sons, Charlie Polk of Morton, Gary Cushman of Forest, Randy Polk of Pelahatchie, and Kevin Polk of Forest; and two brothers, B. Z. Polk of Morton and J. D. Polk of Jackson.

Blackaby convinced God is church leader

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP) — Pastoral leadership was among the topics Henry Blackaby addressed in a question-and-answer period during an Oklahoma Baptist University luncheon for about 50 area church staff members Feb. 25.



Blackaby (file photo)

The luncheon was part of the school's annual spiritual focus week. Blackaby is director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) prayer and spiritual awakening office and author of the widely-used study course, "Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God."

Asked about the role of pastor as leader of the church, Blackaby responded, "God never looks for leaders. He is the leader."

Blackaby said the greatest tragedy in the history of Old Testament Israel was when they demanded a king. He said by doing so, they rejected God as their leader.

"They were looking at the world's system of leadership, not God's," he explained.

"The world around us doesn't acknowledge God. They look for leaders and write books about leadership, but they substitute those things for following God."

"Pastors are taught to read what the world says about leadership," Blackaby noted. "They begin to function that way and they become substitutes for God."

He suggested that in God's system of leadership, a leader, such as Moses, becomes a spiritual catalyst, drawing people to God.

"Jesus Christ is the head of the church," he said.

"The pastor is not the head. The pastor is not the CEO. Christ is the CEO. The role of the pastor is to know how to function in relationship to the head — as a spiritual catalyst."

"When the pastor is the head, we make Christ the figurehead. Every member must have a personal spiritual relationship with the head, Jesus Christ," he pointed out.

Blackaby said the pastor's role is to teach his people the ways of God so they can become "perfect in Christ," citing Colossians 1:28.

"When every person in the church becomes perfect in Christ, there is no limit to what God can do with that church," he said.

Asked about Southern Baptist slogans, such as HMB's current "Start Something New" campaign, Blackaby responded, "When you sit down and plan to start something new, you've taken your eyes off the One who is already doing something new."

He said the world teaches the church to target certain groups, such as baby boomers.

"The moment you target any group, you have abandoned the Great Commission," Blackaby said. "We're to reach all the people of the world."

After the Israelites followed God's instructions and the walls of Jericho fell, Blackaby said, "(T)heir enemies didn't fear the Israelites. They feared the God of the Israelites."

"Does anyone in America today fear the God of Southern Baptists? No. The world sees Southern Baptists using the tools of the world rather than following the instructions of God."

America needs to come face to face with God. The world needs to confront Christ."

HMB spokesman Martin King issued a statement after seeing Blackaby's comments referencing the "Start Something New" initiative:

"Certainly Henry Blackaby has been and continues to be used of the Lord, and his observations always warrant study and reflection."

"There is a danger, however, in taking what Dr. Blackaby says out of context and misapplying what he says. I'm confident that Henry Blackaby does not mean that starting churches, Sunday Schools, and missions groups are ungodly things to do; in fact, they are commanded by Scripture."

WMU planning Ridgecrest trips June 26-July 5

The Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) is sponsoring a combination weekender and WMU Conference trip to Ridgecrest Assembly in North Carolina on June 26-July 5.

The weekender trip on June 26-30 will provide three days of Bible study, prayer, ministry ideas, spiritual growth conferences, missions encounters, music, and fellowship prior to the start of the WMU Conference.

Christian music artist Karla Worley; author/speaker Barbara Joiner; and speaker/writer Rhonda Kelley will lead the weekend.

The WMU Conference on June 26-July 5 will include WMU leader training, missions promotions workshops, contacts with missionaries, daily missions fairs, and mini-conferences during lunch.

Worley and Joiner will be joined by Anne Davis to lead the conference.

Cost for the weekender only is \$289 per person, which includes motorcoach transportation, two nights lodging at Holiday Inn, and room/board at Ridgecrest Assembly. A deposit of \$100 per person is due by April 1.

Cost for the combination weekender/WMU conference is \$630 per person, which includes motorcoach transportation, two nights lodging at Holiday Inn, and room/board at Ridgecrest Assembly. A deposit of \$100 is due by April 1.

For more information, con-

tact coordinator Jan Cossitt, Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or Mississippi WMU, P.O. Box toll-free outside Jackson (800) 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. 748-1651.



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CUT BIVOS LOOSE

Editor:

We treat many of our ministers like the second son at an Old Testament estate probate, and the Home Mission Board is a prime example. Our prevailing mind-set seems to be a factor, as small churches covet the prestige of a full-time pastor.

Why aren't a farmer/preacher that reminds one of the shepherd/prophet Amos, or a retired military/preacher with a princely government income reminiscent of Isaiah, good examples? Yet, we prefer Paul's "One who preaches the gospel, should live of it," when reality is "and few there be that finds it!"

Double-duty home missionaries could afford insurance and savings plans; thousands now in double duty status would get a morale boost; and the working wives of "full-time" pastors — really pastor/househusbands — would be given the honor they deserve.

A Jerusalem-type council, advocating this proven approach, is ready. Just spell it "bivocational ministers" and cut them loose!

Donald R. Windham, pastor
Ted Church, Bay Springs

WATCHMEN: BE ALERT

Editor:

Ezekiel 33:1-9 sets forth the duty of a watchman. He was to give warning of the approaching enemy by blowing a trumpet.

Has not the Lord set his

church as a watchman upon the wall? Whether we believe it or not, the enemy is already on the horizon and is swiftly approaching with the full intent of the destruction of the church; not only in heathen lands, but right here in our own beloved America. If you have any doubt about this; just "stop, look, and listen."

Have we sounded the trumpet declaring the "whole counsel of God" as the Apostle Paul said that he had done? (Acts 20:27). I don't think anyone with average knowledge of the Bible would deny that our world is headed for destruction, but do we really recognize the enemies for who and what they are?

Someone asked me not long ago, "Why should we (the church) be alarmed, didn't God say that these things must come to pass in the latter days?" Yes, he sure did. He also promised that we would be exempt from his final judgement of this sin-cursed world; but surely we would not want to meet him in that day with blood on our hands. Can we say, as the Apostle Paul did, that we are pure from the blood of all men? (Acts 20:26). Or do we need to wash our hands in his cleansing fountain of forgiveness? Watchman, what of the night?

Mona B. Nolf
Moss Point

GOD LOVES EACH OF US

Editor:

I am writing in comment to the "Wrong about PK" article. I agree completely with Mr. Sandridge. My husband and I are presently members of a "Baptist" Church but we do not consider ourselves "Baptist." When people inquire about our religion we simply reply that we are Christians.

In the Bible God says, whosoever. In my opinion that means everyone, not just Baptist or Southern Baptist, or Catholic etc. My life is a spiritual one not necessarily a religious one. We

do attend our church regularly and participate in everything offered by our church but just because we attend a Baptist church does not mean we classify ourselves as "Baptists."

We are simply Christians, children of God. It's as simple as that. We do not need to complicate our lives by arguing over who will or will not get to Heaven, or what is the best religion. The best religion is someone who loves God and loves his neighbor as himself and believes that Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins. It can't get any more simple that. We have more important things to be doing for God and his kingdom than arguing over what religion is the best or the right one. God loves each of us the same and we should love each other the same, just as he did and just as he tells us to do.

Betty and Major Hogue
Greenville

ANNIVERSARY APPEAL

Editor:

This year there are more than 50 Mississippi Baptist Convention churches that are celebrating significant anniversaries of a centennial or longer.

The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission has a policy of recognizing churches that are at least 100 years old and those that subsequently are 125, with a sesquicentennial, or 175 years old. We encourage those churches to seize this opportunity to proclaim to community, state, and nation appreciation for the ancestors who labored so diligently and successfully to found, nurture, and preserve a church for a century or more.

We appeal to all of those, to whom we have sent a special note of congratulations, to sponsor a special anniversary celebration of some type, either a very elementary acknowledgment with a special Sunday presentation or a more comprehensive celebration that may even include the preparation of a church history.

We offer the resources of the Commission to assist the churches and, when notified by the church about the anniversary date, will prepare a special certificate and letter of com-

mendation for each church. Usually, a commissioner is available to deliver the certificate and read the letter in person. Our address is Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission, Box 51, Clinton, MS 39060.

Edward McMillan
Clinton

PK UNSOUND MOVEMENT

Editor:

It's for sure not all men in Promise Keepers (PK) believe alike. Most are sacrificing sound Biblical doctrine for unity without realizing it. This is my question to these sincere men: Would you trust a group with the following views to give spiritual direction? John Wimber, founder, apostle, and prophet of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship Church believes this:

1. Healing through laying on of hands can be learned.
2. Christians can be "demon possessed."

3. Jesus healed the same way a witch doctor or shaman would.

4. The Roman Catholic approach to miracles is more trustworthy than that of Protestants.

5. The Roman Catholic approach to Mary and her sinlessness is acceptable.

6. The "Holy Laughter" phenomenon is ordained of God.

7. The scribes were right. Jesus was a blasphemous and did sin.

8. Demons can be "born again" just as we are, and many have been.

Wimber is the mentor and guide of James Ryles, the pastor and prophet of the Boulder, Colorado Vineyard Church, of which Bill McCartney and Randy Phillips are members. These men organized and run Promise Keepers.

Can you, in good conscience and discernment as a true Bible believing Christian, be a part of this unsound movement? Do not be deceived!

Documents of support for this can be ordered from Media Spotlight, P. O. Box 290, Redmond, WA 98073-0290: "Media Spotlight Special Report: The Vineyard, History, Teachings, Practices" and "Testing the Fruit of the Vineyard" by John Goodwin.

Arnold C. Lowe
Kosciusko



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (While church membership is not required, Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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Clue: D equals Y
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Bible verse has been encoded
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the puzzle. Solve by trial and
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puzzle: Acts Four Twelve.



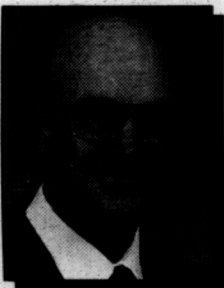
Mississippi College (MC) nursing students prepare for the Nursing Health Fair scheduled from 2-8 p.m. on March 27 at First Church, Clinton. The group is pictured in the office of MC President Howell W. Todd, where Angela Grice is taking his blood pressure. Seated form left are Julie Akins, Carrie Kuyrkendall, and Heather McClain. Standing from left are Del Dickson, Angela Oden, Shelly Burton, and Ashley Bennett.

Mississippi College Office of Admission will host a Transfer Preview Day on March 21. Transfer Preview Day is a scheduled time for transfers to tour the campus,

receive information on the transfer of courses, attend a class, and meet with professors. The day's activities will begin with registration at 8 a.m. and conclude at 1:30 p.m.

STAFF CHANGES

Clayton C. Bath, pastor of Port Gibson Church, Port Gibson, for 20 years, will retire May 25. Other past-
orates include First, Tchula; Lakeview, Leland; and Emmanuel, Starkville. A Colorado native, he has served Mississippi Baptists since his graduation from New Orleans Seminary in 1966. Clayton and his wife Eleanor will make their home at 4132



Bath

Rainey Road, Jackson. He will be available for supply and interim ministries as well as revivals and Bible studies.

Raymond Road Church, Jackson, has called **Jim Burnett** as pastor effective Feb. 23. A native of Brandon, Burnett will receive his doctor of ministry degree in May from New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Shady Grove Church, Bogue Chitto.



Some of the William Carey College nursing students who participated in the Community Service Elective course offered during the winter trimester are pictured. The Community Service Elective course offered by William Carey College is designed to allow students to give service to individuals and groups in the surrounding community through existing community agencies. Students choose a position of service from needs of agencies participating in the program.

For reservations or additional information, call (601) 925-3240 or 1-800-738-1236.

materials contact Paul Cotten at (601) 582-6416.

William Carey College will host the 13th annual Conference on the Elderly Mentally Handicapped Mississippians April 25 from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Mary S. Harper, formerly with the National Institute on Mental Health, will deliver the keynote speech. The seminar is sponsored by William Carey College, Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Boswell Regional Center, and the Mississippi Chapter of the American Association on Mental Retardation. For more information or registration

Three William Carey College Gulf Coast campus students received awards in the Student Division of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Advertising Awards (ADDY) Competition held recently. The ADDY Awards are part of the national competition conducted annually by the American Advertising Federation to recognize creative excellence. Receiving awards were Phil Dixon, Christina Derivan, and Chuck McCann.

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FOR SALE BY SEALED BID: 15 Pass. van. Good cond. Cut off date for bids is 31 March 1997, 4p.m. 289-4294.

BIVOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC is needed at Wade Baptist Church. Please send

resumes to: Music Search Committee, 2716 Dogwood Lane, Pascagoula, MS 39581.

NORTHCREST BAPTIST CHURCH, MERIDIAN, MS has used pews for sale. For more information call 601-482-3498 and leave your name and number with the secretary.

SMALL CHURCH LOOKING for new or used sliding partitions. Call Mike Ramage, pastor, College Hill Baptist Church, C.R. 472 #26, Vardaman, MS 38878, 601-628-5290.

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STEWARDSHIP/ACCOUNTING SECRETARY. First Baptist Church, Jackson, has an opening for a secretary who will handle stewardship recording/reporting and accounting support functions. Experience with personal computers and ability to work in a confidential manner are required. Interested parties should contact Ken Lundquist at 601-949-1927.

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D. Strickland, pastor, dies

Don Strickland, pastor of Trinity Church, Petal, died Feb. 6 at Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg, after a brief illness. Services were held at Green's Creek Church, Petal, on Feb. 9. Burial was in the Green's Creek Cemetery.

Strickland was born in Alabama and moved to Mississippi to attend William Carey College.

He was ordained by Green's Creek Church in 1962 and served as pastor to the following churches: Olive, Lumberton; Harvey First, Petal; and Memorial, New Augusta; and for the past 20 years pastored Trinity Church.

Survivors include his wife Edna; daughter, Donna Strickland Torres; and grandchildren, Ashleigh and Auston Torres.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Rolling Creek Church, Quitman, will present its Easter musical/drama program, *The Highest Place (Love's Story Told)* on March 22 and 23 at 7 p.m.

Leaf River Church, Smith Association, will have an Easter "Son" Rise Service on March 30, beginning at 6 a.m. A continental breakfast will

follow. The regular Sunday School services will be at 9:45 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m. Daniel Perry is pastor.

Calvary Church, Columbus, will present the "Messiah True and Faithful", March 27 at 7 p.m. Roy D. Hawkins is pastor. For more information call (601) 328-6741.

REVIVAL DATES

Wheeler Grove, Corinth: March 23-26; 7 nightly; Harvey Reeves, staff evangelist; Wheeler Grove Church, evangelist, Kara Blackard, pastor.

Mashulaville, Macon: March 30-April 2; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Billy Smith, Madison, evangelist;

Olyn Roberts, pastor, music leader; Lisa Lee, pianist; and Wanda Lee, organist.

Society Hill, Oakvale: April 7-13; 7 p.m.; Milton Scott, Carson, evangelist; Bob Thames, Collins, music; Glen Nelson, pastor.

Chester, Ackerman: April 13-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ed Gandy, director of missions, Alcorn Association, evangelist; Deanna Pearson, Chester Church, music; Philip Cooper, pastor.

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NAMES IN THE NEWS



David Raddin (left), pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, was honored for his service on behalf of Mississippi Baptists as a Brotherhood Commission trustee on March 1. He was congratulated by James D. Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission.

Tim Nicholas, director of the Office of Communication at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was awarded in December the doctor of philosophy degree in communication from the University of Southern Mississippi. Also, the 20-year board employee has been named to the 1997 volume of "Who's Who in the South and Southwest."

Rolling Creek Church, Quitman, licensed **Raymond Martin** to the ministry on Feb. 23. He is available for speaking engagements and can be reached at (601) 776-3507.

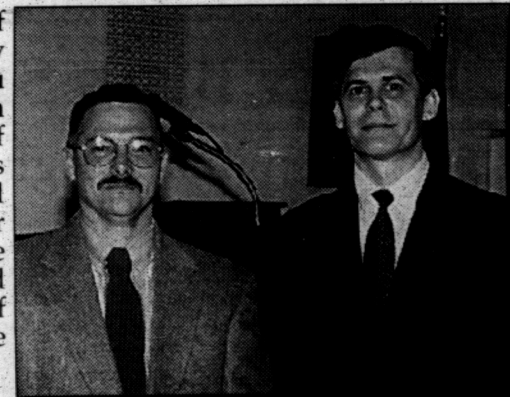
Union Church, Sardis, has

"Seek and Ye Shall Find"

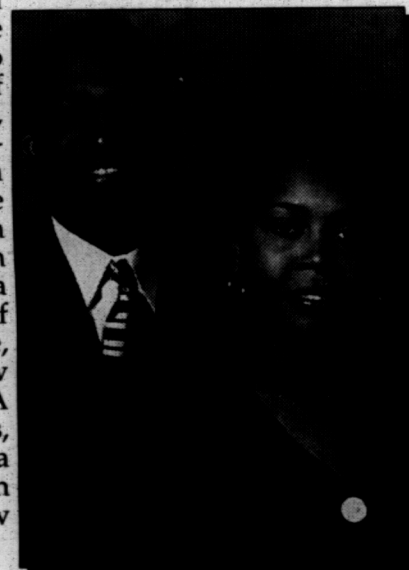
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announced the addition of two new deacons. They are **Richard Donahou** (left) and **George Smith** (right). Donahou, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Donahou of Sardis, and his wife, the former Donna Bunnell, have one son. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Smith of Banner, is married to the former Jo Ann McGregor.



Anthony and Noreen Jackson were recently appointed by the Home Mission Board to serve as home missionaries to Tennessee. A native of Apalachicola, Fla., Jackson is former pastor of Mt. Helm Church, Jackson. He now serves as a church planter apprentice in Memphis, Tenn. He is a graduate of Morehouse College, Atlanta, and New Orleans Seminary. A native of New Orleans, Noreen Jackson is a graduate of Southern University, New Orleans.



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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Be saved

Matthew 27: 32-66

By Mark Long

After his trial before Pilot, Jesus was led to Golgotha. On the way Jesus fell under the weight of the cross beam of the cross. By this time Jesus' body had already been depleted of energy from the scourging. Emotionally he must have been spent from the trials, ridicule by the soldiers, and rejection by the mob of people. Crowds love a winner, but they hate a loser. Right now it appeared Jesus was the loser.

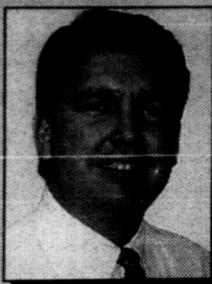
What the crowd did not understand was that Jesus was pouring out his life so they could win the race of life. Matthew recorded Jesus' earlier words of giving his life for the

ransom of all (20:28).

Jesus suffered greatly to achieve our salvation. Jesus' death does not depict a weak Savior, but one strong enough to endure the worst suffering for those whom he loves.

Doubt and Ridicule (27:39-44). While Jesus hung on the cross people ridiculed him. Though cruel to mock someone in such suffering, this shows the utter rejection of Jesus. He was viewed as one deserving a death reserved for the vilest of offenders. Even the robbers, who truly understood Jesus' suffering, heaped abuse on him.

In their ridicule, however, the crowd and rulers indicated



Long

they fully understood Jesus' message. They called him "Son of God." They referred to Jesus' saving of other people.

Jesus suffered for fulfilling God's purpose. Jesus could have come down from the cross, but we would not have been saved. Jesus endured the cross for people, even though people rejected him fully knowing his message.

We also, walking in Jesus' steps, will suffer ridicule and rejection if we carry the message of salvation. The world still does not understand Jesus' death, and it won't understand our devotion to the crucified Jesus. Are we willing to endure for the salvation of those who ridicule and persecute us?

Darkness and a Question (27:45-46). Darkness fell over the earth from the sixth to the ninth

hour (noon until three p.m.). God allowed the darkness to hide Jesus. At times of extreme pain, if one does not pass out, the stomach can herniate, and the abdomen engorges. The body can become grossly disfigured. T. W. Hunt believes Jesus' body underwent such disfigurement. Paul said Jesus became sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus did not merely pay the price for our sin, he become our sin. What agony this must have caused him.

Hanging on the cross, for the first time, Jesus felt separation from God. He cried out in agony from a hellish pit of suffering. His cry was the beginning of Psalm 22. The Psalm was one of despair, but ended in triumph. Though Jesus' cry came from true agony, the end result was triumph for Jesus and mankind.

Death and Reactions (27:50-54). Finally Christ expired. Three signs accompanied Christ's death. First, the veil in

the temple tore. This veil separated worshippers from the holy of holies. With his death, Jesus removed the barrier separating God and man.

Second, the earth quake and splitting of the rocks was a testimony of nature as to the significance of Christ's death.

Third, many bodies of the saints were raised from the grave. Actually, this sign accompanied Jesus' resurrection. The NIV is misleading, reading as though the holy people were raised before Jesus. The Greek text allows, and Paul testifies, that Christ rose first. With this, Matthew foreshadowed the resurrection of Jesus. Note the emphasis on "Body." Eternal life is not merely spiritual, it is physical. The resurrection of these saints was a testimony to Christ's, and our, bodily resurrection.

Long is pastor, First Church, Perkinson.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Do what is right!

II Thes. 3:1-13

By Mary Ellen Powell

Prayer Requested (II Thessalonians 3:1-2). Paul ends his letter by requesting prayer for the rapid spread of the gospel and for protection. Today, we need to pray for our missionaries and church staffs. Pray that they will be bold in their witnesses and feel the strength of God's power as they serve in his name. Our world needs the healing and redemptive power of Christ, but there are those who would do harm to those who share the gospel. Protection is ever-needed for our missionaries and ministers. Let us always remember to pray for their physical and spiritual safety as well as that of their families.

Confidence Expressed (3:3-5). Paul expresses confidence that God will deal with both the inward and outward spiritual lives of the Thessalonians. He prays for strength and protection from Satan, something which is needed for all believers. Paul knew that though Satan can attack believers physically, the true battlefield is the heart. We should be in prayer for each other that our hearts would remain true to Christ and be protected from the snares that Satan throws in our paths.

The external proof of a heart that is strengthened by God and devoted to him is our actions. By faith, Paul knew that his prayers for their protection and strength



Powell

would be answered and that the Thessalonians would have actions that reflected these things. Paul's confidence that his prayers for the Thessalonians would be answered should encourage us to pray for others.

Paul's prayer that the Lord would direct their hearts into his love and Christ's perseverance has with it the unstated assumption that their hearts were so free of their own desires that they were totally open to God's direction. Our goal should be that our hearts would be totally open to receive direction from God, whatever that direction may be.

Example Provided (3:6-12). Some of the Thessalonians had given up their work and everyday lives to wait for Christ's return. Though we should be looking forward in anticipation to Christ's return, we are not to stop our lives to wait. Paul cited for the Thessalonians his

own example of hard work in their midst; never freeloading off of them, but working as an example of what their behavior should be. Plainly stated, Paul says, "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

Added to his call against laziness, is the accusation that these people had become busybodies. A person who is idle has a great deal more time on their hands to criticize and tend to the business of others, but still does not get anything constructive accomplished. There are worse things than being a busybody, but there are very few things that cause worse damage to the church. In light of the promise of Christ's return, we should be busy at the work he has called us to, not busy tending to the business of others.

Consistency Commanded (3:13). After directly telling those who were idle to get back to work, he commends and encourages those who are doing

what is right. An often-quoted statistic is that 20% of people in churches do 80% of the work. In some churches, that is a generous percentage of workers. Whatever the situation is in your church or your ministry outside the church, remember Paul's instruction: "never tire of doing what is right." Trust that God will give you the strength and perseverance to complete the tasks he has set before you.

Discipline Required (3:14-16). The passage ends with instruction on disciplining those who are not pulling their own weight. Paul states that the offending members are not to be associated with and that they are to be warned of the consequences of their actions. The idea of church discipline has changed through the years, we cannot, however, ignore our God-given responsibility to warn our brothers and sisters in Christ of the dangers of disobeying God.

Powell is a member of First Church, Clinton.

LIFE AND WORK

Rejection

Matthew 27:1-31

By Thad Moore

There are many great questions in the Bible. The Philippian Jailer asked, "What must you do to be saved?" Elijah asked, "How long will you waiver between two opinions? If God is God, serve him." In the lesson today Pilate asks a question of extreme importance. How we answer this question will determine our destiny.

A Key Question (3:11-14). Jesus had been arrested and stood before Pilate. Pilate asked if Jesus was the king of the Jews. Without hesitation Jesus said yes. This would have been an appropriate place for all present to bow down and worship Christ.

The chief priest continued to

accuse Jesus of wrong doing. Christ does not respond to them. Jesus knew no matter what his response it would not change their minds. He also knew his present situation was a fulfillment of scriptures (Isaiah 53). Jesus was doing what he came to do: to die for our sins.

A Crucial Choice (3:15-18). Life often boils down to choices. Those who make good choices have fulfilling lives. Those who make bad choices often have difficult lives. God allows us to make our own choices. He does not force his way on us. We can choose his way and find life.

Pilate tried to play the crowd against the Jewish leadership.



Moore

He expected the crowd to ask for Jesus' release. However, the Jewish leadership had incited the crowd against Jesus. It is difficult to make good choices when motives are impure.

Some scholars say Barabbas' first name was Jesus. Therefore, the choice is more focused. Do you want Jesus Barabbas released or Jesus who is called the Christ? The "Christ" means messiah or anointed one. Jesus is the anointed one from God who came to take our sins. The choice is ours to make. Will we follow God's son and find life? Will we follow a false Jesus who is not Jesus at all and face destruction?

A Firm Rejection (20-23). The crowd was persuaded to ask for Barabbas' release. They wanted Jesus crucified. Then Pilate asked one of the greatest questions of all times, "What then shall I do with Jesus who

is called the Christ." The questions deserves an answer from all of us. What are we doing with Christ? Are we letting him rule our lives and have his way in his churches?

This crowd obviously rejected Christ. It is hard for most of us to understand why some people reject Christ. Perhaps crowd hysteria has taken over. Once madness takes over it is hard for truth to prevail. Yet we know that some people deliberately chose to reject Christ. They realize God loves them but they will not trust Christ. Our responsibility is to be faithful to Christ regardless of what the crowds do.

Pilate tried to calm the crowd by asking what crime had been committed. At this point facts do not matter. Pilate should have spoken up and stood his ground for an innocent man. At least he could have followed his wife's intuition. Nobody ever said it was easy to follow Christ.

A Weighty Responsibility (24-26). In our culture more is said about rights and privileges than responsibility. However in the scriptures responsibility is seen as a privilege that has consequences if abused.

Pilate tried to evade responsibility by washing his hands. The crowd seemed willing to accept responsibility, but they were not aware of all that was happening. At this time, it would be fair to ask, where were the disciples? The Jewish leadership was in the background letting the crowd do their dirty work. Who was responsible for these terrible events?

In our more sober moments, Christians realize it was our sins that put Jesus on the cross. All mankind is responsible for the death of Christ. If we are saved it is our responsibility to get the good news of the gospel to the world. We can be forgiven!

Moore is pastor, First Church, Holly Springs.

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Mr. & Mrs. Virgil L. Barlow Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Burt
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Jason Partie
Ms. Elouise Webb
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Ms. Lena Whisenant
Mr. & Mrs. Fred L. Gaddis
Monelle White
Mrs. Irene L. Brister
Mr. Brad White
Mr. J. C. Herrod
Mr. Herman Whitten
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold
Mr. & Mrs. Stanford E. Wilkie
Dr. Rebecca S. Legge
Marris Williams
Ms. Ann G. Stanford
Mr. Benton Williams
Mrs. Edna W. Reynolds
Mrs. Ada H. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Roy D. Hendricks
Mr. Kenneth Williamson
Mr. & Mrs. James K. Williamson
Ms. Lauren Williford
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Lyons
Mr. & Mrs. William Edward Will
Mr. & Mrs. Larry W. Creel
Mrs. Kate Wilson
Dr. Rebecca S. Legge
Mr. & Mrs. W. O. Sr Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Hembree Brandon
Ms. Kim Womack
Mr. & Mrs. Gaddis Womack
Mrs. Lois Woodruff
Rev. & Mrs. R. L. Sigrest Jr.
Mrs. Ann Wright
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Wilkie
Mrs. Ruby Bell Wyatt
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Mrs. Ruth Fulgham Yeatman
Mr. James C. Peay
Mr. Floyd W. Young
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
Mrs. Nell Young
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Buchanan
Mr. & Mrs. Glen King
Ms. Naomi Young
Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Owens
Mrs. Mary Frances Yow
Mr. & Mrs. Herman & Christopher
Coats

TOUR DATES

The Baptist Children's Village
will conduct tours of statewide campuses on the following dates:

Farrow Manor Campus, Independence
and
Reedy Acres Campus,
Water Valley

Thursday, April 24, 1997
and
Saturday, April 26, 1997

Tentative Schedule

7:00 a.m. Meet at India Nunnery Campus for Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m. Depart for Farrow Manor Campus
11:30 a.m. Tour and Lunch at Farrow Manor
1:30 p.m. Depart for Reedy Acres
2:45 p.m. Tour and Coffee at Reedy Acres
3:30 p.m. Depart for Return to India Nunnery Campus
6:00 p.m. Arrive India Nunnery Campus

For reservations call Chrystelle Thames at (601) 922-2242 or send:

Name _____
Group _____
Expected in Group _____
Telephone _____

to: Chrystelle Thames, The Baptist Children's Village,
P.O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027

****NOTE—If you would rather meet us at another campus for tours, let us know.

ANNOUNCING MORE CHURCHES

Answering the Baptist Children's Village Challenge

FBC, Summit, Pike Assoc.
FBC, Sardis, Panola Assoc.
Big Creek BC, Calhoun Assoc.
Zion Hill BC, Union County Assoc.
Center Ridge BC, Yazoo Assoc.
FBC Jackson, Metro Assoc.
East End, Lowndes Assoc.

***If your church has agreed to support The Baptist Children's Village for a day (\$7500), but you have not yet notified us, please do so. We would like to deliver your church family's calendars promptly. Keep up the good work, Mississippi, as we work toward our goal of 365 churches.

CORRECTION CORRECTION

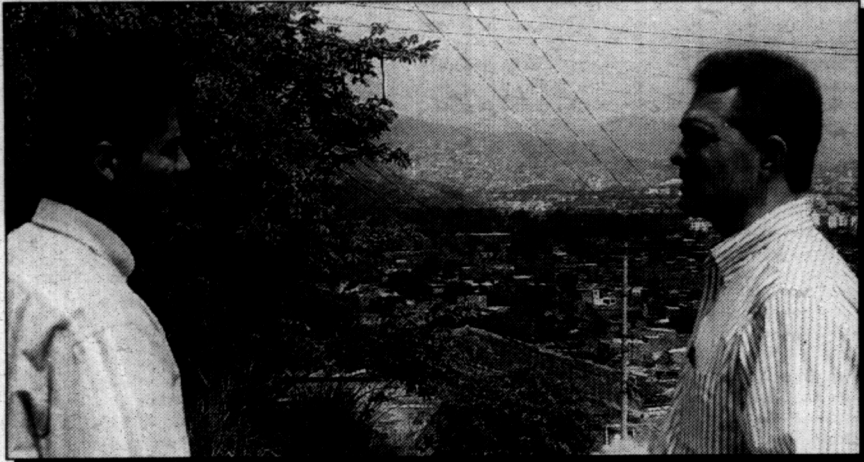
Carrollton Baptist Church with 1996 donations of \$1,410.00 qualified for The Baptist Children's Village "Honor Roll of Churches".

Sorry, we left you off the list, Carrollton. We love you!!!

Mississippi couple plants Cali ministry

By Wally Poor
SBC Foreign Mission Board

CALI, Colombia — The newly arrived missionary wound his way through the



OVERLOOKING CALI — Missionary Jeff Ginn (right) prayerfully discusses strategies for reaching Cali with Arles Vanegas, pastor of Comunidad de Paz Baptist Church, Cali, Colombia, on the mountain-side above the city. (FMB Photo by Betty Poor)

unpaved streets of "Prados del Sur", one of Cali's zonas rojas (red zones), so-called for their high degree of violence.

He had been invited to teach a woman and her husband the Bible. He expected to find perhaps three or four persons gathered. When he and his wife arrived, 25 were crammed into the room.

The missionary's name was Jeff Ginn of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB).

Jeff, a Mississippian, used Ephesians 2:8-9. When he finished, he asked the group their reaction to what he had said.

Most of the people, including Stella, the woman who had invited the Ginns, were persons displaced by the endemic violence in Colombia's rural areas who had fled to the relative calm of the cities. They were shy about being first to speak.

Finally Stella's landlady, the matriarch of the group, prepared to speak.

Jeff held his breath. He knew what the woman said would be the group's verdict. "Before we heard you, we were blind. Now, we see," she said.

The pronouncement, so closely paralleling the sentiment of "Amazing Grace," which of course the woman had never heard, stunned the young missionary.

"Would you repeat that?", he stammered. She did.

Thus was born the Peace Baptist Church.

In a few weeks, the attendance outgrew the meeting space. Two cell groups were formed.

Then Jeff's wife Nell held a Vacation Bible School. The Ginns began Sunday morning services in a barrio sports complex.

Meanwhile, Jeff, who teaches New Testament and Greek at Cali's International Baptist Seminary, was sharing his experiences with his students. Arles Vanegas was amazed. He had reason to be. He had grown up

in the area. He was amazed that anyone, especially a North American, could plant a Baptist church there.

In truth, Cali, synonymous in many people's mind with drugs and violence, would seem an unlikely place for a new missionary to go. But the Lord had sent the Ginns there.

"As we began our ministry in Cali, a mega-city renowned for its dominance of the world cocaine market, we wrestled

with fears," Jeff said.

"Yet I recall standing on the foothills above Cali, looking over her teeming masses and sensing the voice of the Lord speaking to my heart as he did the Apostle Paul at Corinth: 'Do not be afraid. Be faithful to proclaim the gospel. I am with you and will protect you. Many will respond.'"

In the midst of drugs, crime, and violence, Jeff and Nell Ginn are planting churches.

Mississippi missionary cautious in Cali lifestyle

By Betty Poor
SBC Foreign Mission Board

CALI, Colombia — What in the world is a Mississippi public school teacher and mother of three children doing here in Cali, Colombia — South America's notorious drug capital?

Her name is Nell Ginn, and she works with her husband Jeff starting churches in this troubled but spiritually awakening city.

You don't see many North Americans here any more, but the Ginns volunteered to serve in Cali as Foreign Mission Board missionaries.

The couple met at Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College.

After they were married, the couple volunteered for Cali and arrived in 1992.

"We walk cautiously here, but we don't walk in fear all the time," Nell says.

She keeps careful watch over her children — Anna, age 6; Jordan, age 4; and Zachary, age 1 — because Cali is notorious for kidnapping.

In Cali, prayer sustains Nell Ginn, just as she was strengthened by her parents' prayers when she was growing up in First Church, Byhalia.

"My parents would always pray with me every night, she said. "Then after they left I would pray by myself. As a very small child I asked Jesus to be my Savior. Now I pray with my children every night."

In Cali she's teaching children and training teachers in the churches she and her husband are starting.

In their first start in Comunidad Cristiana de Paz, the Sunday School room was a hallway in a sports complex. The children used benches for desks. Nell trained Sunday

School workers by having them work alongside her and then turning the class over to them.

Now Nell is teaching children and training leaders in the Comunidad Cristiana (mission) Valle del Lil in a shopping mall. "I pair up somebody who has a Christian background with a new believer," she said.

She plans a varied program for the children, using Sunday



IN GOD'S HANDS — Nell Ginn, with Zachary and Jordan on the international seminary grounds near their home in Cali, Colombia. (FMB Photo by Betty Poor)

School teachers two Sundays each month, having a children's choir one Sunday and using a children's video—produced at the International Communications Center in Cali—called "Casita en el Arbol" (Little House in the Tree) for the fourth Sunday.

Not everybody would volunteer to take their children to Cali to start churches, but there are two congregations — including a lot of Colombian children — who are glad the Ginns said to the Lord, "Here am I. Send me."



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I am concerned about interracial dating and marriage. Are there Bible verses that can guide me?

There are really no Bible verses that deal specifically with this difficult issue. It is often cited that Moses married Zipporah (Ex. 2:21), a Cushite woman who was likely dark-skinned. King David's great-grandmother was the Moabite Ruth, wife of Boaz (Ruth 4:14-16). Being from Moab means Ruth was probably a dark-skinned woman. Deut. 7:3 is often used as a Bible passage that prohibits interracial marriage, but the verse actually prohibits the mixing of God's people with mates who practice other religions. Interracial couples considering marriage should be absolutely certain they are under the Lord's leadership. They shouldn't be taking such an important step just to spite their parents, to indulge a novel sexual attraction, or to challenge a cultural/societal taboo. Christian premarital counseling is

always a good idea, regardless of racial makeup.

You often answer questions regarding sex within marriage. Since widows and divorcees have sexual desires, too, how can we handle those desires and stay within the will of God?

The key to dealing with sexual desires — whether inside or outside marriage — is to discipline yourself by seeking the ways of the Lord. This is also true in every other area of your life. Balance your life with meaningful and stimulating activities that involve your spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, and social needs. Seek Christian friends who value the same Godly commitments and priorities you have made. Your letter also states, "I want to hear from someone who has been without a partner for years, and how they handle it." That's a fair request, so I'd like to ask for letters from people who have encountered this challenge. I'll print the responses at a later date.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.